



"THE  
HARVEST  
INDEED  
IS  
GREAT,  
BUT  
THE  
LABORERS  
ARE  
FEW.  
"PRAY  
YE  
THEREFORE



THE  
LORD  
OF  
THE  
HARVEST,  
THAT  
HE  
SEND  
LABORERS  
INTO  
HIS  
HARVEST."

St. Luke x-2

# The Messenger of Our Lady of Africa

PUBLISHED BY

THE WHITE SISTERS OF AFRICA

METUCHEN,

✱

✱

NEW JERSEY

# The Messenger of Our Lady of Africa



Published and edited with ecclesiastical approbation bi-monthly by the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa (White Sisters), Metuchen, N. J.

Subscription One Dollar a Year

Entered as second class matter December 15, 1931, at the post office at Metuchen, N. J., under the Act of March 3, 1879.



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Persons who would like to avail themselves of these privileges, by becoming members of one of these Guilds may apply to either of the following Promoters, who will be pleased to furnish the necessary information:

Miss Helen Boland, 35 Madison Avenue, Jersey City.

Mrs. Roman Smith, Jr., South River, New Jersey.



## Recommendation of His Excellency the Bishop Of Trenton, N. J.

Dear Reverend Mother:

I am indeed pleased to recommend most heartily the Apostolic work of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa. You are laboring in your own quiet way, and in accordance with the wishes of our Holy Father, Pius XI, gloriously reigning, solely that Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, may be better known and better loved by those for whom he gave His life on the Cross that all men might have life, and have it more abundantly.

Any assistance given you will be rewarded by the Saviour Himself, who has promised: "Whoever shall give a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, amen, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." I am sure such a labor of love needs no further commendation to the good priests and faithful people of the Diocese of Trenton.

Wishing you every blessing in your noble work, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ MOSES E. KILEY,

Bishop of Trenton.

July 24, 1934.

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For Information apply to Rev. Mother Superior, 319 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen, N. J.



## “A Silver Jubilee”

1910 - 1935

ON THE SECOND OF MAY, 1910, Reverend Mother Mary, Superior of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa, at Metuchen, N. J., knelt before the altar at the Mother House in Africa to pronounce her first vows, pledging eternal love to Mary's Divine Son.

A quarter century has been completed, marked by achievement in missionary activity in the various mission fields and finally at Metuchen, where she is the MOTHER with all the love and reverence the name implies.

Twenty-five years have passed since the day of profession and once again our Jubilarian vows her soul and body, mind and heart to the service of the Eternal King. On the eve of this happy anniversary, the Sisters of the Community offered their respectful congratulations to the Jubilarian and recalled many mission incidents which occurred during this time namely; the little ones baptized, who no doubt from their Heavenly home joined in singing the "Magnificat" with the one who led them there . . . the old woman who in spite of hunger pretended she would "prefer to see her smile rather than have a hundred loaves of bread" . . . the mothers who seeing her leave the Mission brought their babes, each one saying; "Look at him once more, is he not your child? You saved his life!" All these memories are dear to a Missionary Sister who has devoted her life to win souls to God.

Through the kindness of our pastor, Reverend J. J. Foley, Mass was said at St. Francis Church, Metuchen, where the Sisters, parishioners and school children united with their beloved pastor offered the sacrifice of the Mass for Mother Mary's intentions. On the same day a high Mass was being offered at Qubec for the same intentions, also through the kindness and thoughtfulness of the Sisters of Mercy, in the chapel at Mount St. Mary, Plainfield, a Mass was offered, asking Our dear Lord to shower His choicest blessings on our dear Jubilarian. In the afternoon benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given at the White Sisters' Convent, where many friends from Metuchen and surroundings came to greet Mother Mary on this happy occasion.

Reverend Mother Catherine and several Sisters of Mercy, who always manifested so much interest in our work since the foundation, had the kindness of visiting us on this day.

Amongst the numerous spiritual bouquets and congratulations which were sent in honor of this Silver Jubilee, let us mention the Metuchen Parent-Teachers Associations' generous gift.

After spending an agreeable afternoon, the visitors retired to their respective homes, leaving Mother Mary very thankful to all those who showed so much kindness.

The prayerful wish of the day was that the Jubilarian may be granted many more years to "do good", and that she may reach the Golden Jubilee.

# Our Lady Of Africa

THE GENERAL Annual Meeting of "Our Lady of Africa Mission Guild" was held in Jersey City at the N.C.C.W. Community House, where the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa and the members of the Guild spent an agreeable evening.



Reverend Mother Saint John  
Superior General of the White Sisters

The activities and financial reports of the year were read, giving us the successful result and co-operation given at the last "Card Party" held on March the first, to help this worthy work.

The financial amount collected by the Promoters and Members of the Guild was magnificent, not forgetting the food which has been brought during the past year which is also a great item, and the cancelled stamps, tinfoil, etc., etc.

How many have missed this nickel a week? If we asked this question to each individual, they would answer they have received it back a hundred fold and a greater reward shall be granted to them in Heaven.

Reverend Mother Mary, who was present at the Meeting, thanked the Members of the Guild and read the following letter, sent to them by the Reverend Mother General of the White Sisters:

Saint Charles,  
February 21st, 1935.

Ladies, and dear Members of the Guild,

Here is a letter coming for you from far away, from that Africa in which you take such sensible and

apostolic interest, as I was told by Mother Mary.

God is not short of ways and means, even wide oceans are no obstacles to Him, when He wants to draw souls close together, known to each other, stirred by the same zeal and charity. Do you not believe He helps our gratitude in using His own wireless and television? . . . Anyhow, without asking for that or for the slightest miracle, I easily think I actually see your gallant group, dear Ladies, and . . . I admire it.

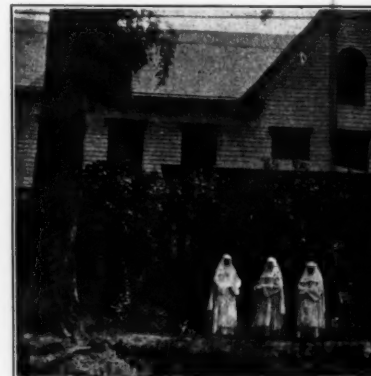
For many of you, the future seems to hold in store all that is fair and good; you intend to lead a useful life, in which deep joys and peace will bear fruit for eternal life. God's grace has crushed selfishness in your hearts, taught you self-denial, to give your own self, if need be, for the sake of others, and, foremost you want to see to God's interests. It was again God's grace that taught you, that of all great things one can do in this world "the most divine is to co-operate to the salvation of souls".

Thence, dear Members of the Guild, answering the call of that previous grace, you whole-heartedly made your clever labor be the greatest help of the Missionary Sisters, you join your prayers to theirs, your sacrifices too, and God knows how valuable they are, especially so during these years of depression when offerings of small or large amounts are withdrawn from decreased fortunes.

Someone may ask: "Are those sacrifices necessary? . . . Does the mission really need so much money? And to which good works does it go?"

I think it should be your turn to use God's wireless and television, it would be the best encouragement and the sweetest reward for you, to be shown clearly the good you accomplish, the misfortunes you make lighter to bear, the souls you snatch away from error, from evil, from hell and those you help towards heaven. God alone would be able to unfold and let your soul see that spiritual film, a thousand times more pathetic than one you perhaps have seen; "Visions of Africa". To make up for God's wireless I need not tell you more stories about our Missions, Mother Mary can do that, nor mention statistics and figures, you will find them in the "Messenger of Our Lady of Africa"; but I want to tell you this; We have reached a very serious epoch, an epoch which may decide on the future of our missions, that is, of the salvation of souls for the glory of God.

The Jubilee of the Redemption, now close to its end seems to have deeply stirred the world of souls; and if, in some civilized countries, the devil rages, it is perhaps to make up for what he loses elsewhere. Seeing that the pagans give him up, Satan, in his



The White Sisters Convent



# Africa Mission Guild

spite, raises sects of Godless men. More than ever, the two opponents are at war; in some parts of the world, there is blood shed, in others the fight is sly and tricky. Look for instance, in mission countries in Central Africa; the natives easily reject idolatry, but there and then the teachers of heresy wait eagerly and slyly. We must hasten and get there before them, cost what it will, we must start immediately new foundations and mission works; later would be too late.

Civilization advances fast, education is compulsory and very well organized in some colonies, but then, if the Catholic Church does not take the lead, that intensive education movement for Native Africans, will favor either protestantism or free-thinking. Hospitals, dispensaries, lepers asylums, lying-in hospitals increase down there in the Dark Continent, and they must; but if materialism is the only base of those institutions they do good to the bodies only, nothing for the souls.

Of all the works necessary on the mission field, some of the most expensive are education and medical assistance; they cost in the start, and still more in their continuation for they need the training and upkeep of native employees. In order to be useful to the souls, the missionary is bound to give, to give his own self without counting the cost . . . And what financial resource have they to keep their work up to the actual standards of civilization, progress and science? You know that God has chosen, in Africa, out of the Black natives, priests, and nuns; the nuns who were taught by our own Sisters, are teachers now in their turn, and in some places they are entirely in charge of whole school for girls. By these few items, you are aware of the sum of labor, resources and money needed for apostolic works.

In North Africa, apostolate which has been checked by too many prejudices, is now granted more freedom, the action of the missionaries is more and more welcome, urged on even by the natives. Although our zeal may not be as outspoken as in Central Africa and should be somewhat veiled, it is a fire, its effects will show, even if only after a long expectation. The whole bulk of the people must be gradually saturated with Christianity so that at last, it will get loose, as one man, from its errors, and rise above their easy cult, ready to accept the yoke of Christ.

You see, dear Benefactors, it is a work of time, winding

along hidden, but getting through more than men seem to be aware of, and which may bring astonishing results. —Not so long ago, a meeting of educated and wealthy Arabs from B . . . , (a large

town where our Sisters run a hospital and work-rooms) sent some of their party to Maison-Carrée, asking the Reverend Father Superior General to send some White Fathers in their town. They seek the truth, they know the Catholic Church owns it; they have started to learn about our divine religion



Mother Mary and Sr. Marie de Loretta with "Members of the Guild".

. . . and they finally proclaimed that if necessary in order to have Missionaries they would go to Rome.

A resolution passed everywhere is the education of native girls and women; it has become a pressing need to take that up, too. You have heard of the boarding-school we have in Carthage for girls belonging to the Arab nobility, it yields the brightest hopes. In our house at La Marsa, near Tunis, we take no more European boarders, in order to give more room and to take more care of young Mohammedan girls; there are twenty-five of them at present. The work-rooms we have just started and the house-keeping class hold a great many more. Biskra also has the same kind of educational institutions. That of Oued-Aissi is more especially for Christian Kabyle girls, but others come from the neighborhood and join them in class or at work.

Although native handicraft is not entirely left out, our boarders and day-girls are taught reading, writing, morals and good behaviour, in turns with cooking, house-keeping, sewing mending, ironing, etc. . . . The lessons on morals are duly appreciated by the children who candidly re-echo them at home; their people come to the Sisters afterwards and ask to be explained the whole lesson. Some of the

(Concluded on page 170)



Convent, Metuchen, N. J.

# The Gekouyou

## Study of a People -- Their Manners and Customs

### THE COUNTRY

"GEOGRAPHY OF GEKOUYOU." — With its verdant mountains and cool valleys, this country lies about 375 miles from the East coast of Africa between the second degree north latitude and the third degree south latitude. The average altitude of the country is 5,200 feet above sea level. One of the highest mountains of equatorial Africa, Mt. Kenya (19,626 feet) with its eternal snow gives to this region a temperature comparable to that of our temperate zones in September. The thermometer registers between 59 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit. There is no real winter, but after the rainy season, called mazika, there is a noticeable coolness in the air.

The country is watered by many small streams running through deep ravines. The Calimeno near the White Sisters' Convent and the Chania a little below have worn their way through rocky beds and in the caves along the banks there are many redoubtable crocodiles, foes whose presence may be tracked by impresses on the moist sand.

In this mountainous country there are many cataracts and falls of various heights. Those of a Calimeno for instance are 33 feet high. These furnish power for a machine which supplies the upper levels with water and a canal near this spot, diverts a stream to a mill. Thus the Christian village has the enormous advantage of a plentiful water supply.

The gorges of Thika are renowned. Tourists come from afar to gaze on these wonders of creation and they are not deterred by the prospect of a journey of twenty four hours by rail from the coast to see the ravines through which flow in parallel courses the Chania and the Thika.

Each of these two rivers has its falls. Those of Chania about eighteen feet in width are not so high as the Thika Falls. The water, rushing between two walls of rock, dashes down into an almost circular natural basin which might be thought to have been hollowed out by the hand of man, and the river flows from this to join the Thika at some distance from there.

To go around the ravine it is necessary to follow a very narrow path hewn from the rock, and care must be taken to keep one's balance among the many pitfalls on the way. To the right a wall of rock, from thirty-five to forty feet high, cuts off all communication with the exterior; on the left, now through a confused mass of bindweed, again over

a bed of stones, the river flows quietly to its mouth. The Chania joins it near its source, from this point it is called the Sabaki, reaching the Ocean near Malindi.

The Flora. — The untilled plains produce only pasturage for the large herds of grazing animals. Here and there may be found thorny bushes but trees are scarce, except on the banks of the rivers and in the valleys. These are for the most part a kind of mimosas and spurge the branches of which take the shape of candelabra.

A wild plant, resembling our sage by its size and its fragrance, abounds in the fields. The sweet-pea, ostrich food, and a mauve flower with the subtle perfume of our heliotrope, are also plentiful.

In the brush there are many varieties of wild flowers. A white petalled flower smells like the narcissus, a kind of pink recalls the odor of the jasmine. There are red lilies and tiger lilies. In fact flowers of many species and every color, even the purple lotus crowd the quiescent pools.

Roses, lilies, carnations, phlox, petunias, corn-flowers, calla lilies and many other flowers of the flora of our own country which grow lavishly in this hospitable soil, rejoice the eye in the gardens and adorn the altars.

The fruit trees are those of the tropical zone: the mango, banana, papaw, guava, peach, orange and lemon all grow well and bear fruit almost throughout the year.

The cereals of Europe have not responded to the efforts made to acclimatize them. On the other hand, corn, sweet potatoes, kidney beans, sugar cane and potatoes are plentiful

and constitute the main food of the natives.

Coffee was first planted about thirty years ago and it has been cultivated so successfully that many planters have come to the region to exploit it.

Cattle-breeding and ostrich farms are two other industries of the country. However, the colonist must learn to cope with the terrible pestilence which plays havoc with the herds at different intervals. Notwithstanding the inoculation of the animals with serum at the outbreak of an epidemic, the owner frequently loses many of his best cattle.

The Fauna. — As the European invades the country, the wild animals take to the forests.

Many stories have been told of lions which attacked and devoured the Whites and Natives while the railway from Mombasa to Port Florence was being laid.



A Mother of the Gekouyou Tribe

"The Gekouyou" (continued)

Now however, the king of beasts can hardly be considered a menace in Gekouyou land. Perhaps he has learned to fear the hunters and their rifles.

Not only the English, masters of this territory, but also Hungarians, Germans, Americans and recently others following in St. Hubert's footsteps, have come to face this formidable foe in the hope of carrying a skin home.

After the lion, holding first place as king of beasts, the much feared buffalo, the rhinoceros and elephant are also denizens of the African brush. The jackal, hyena and leopard, terror of the herds and antelopes of every species, are also numerous.

The gazelle is unquestionably the queen of the plains. Theodore Roosevelt, in his book on hunting in Africa, divided them into two classes, named after the explorers who discovered them; Grant and Thomson.

The Grant's gazelle is one of the most beautiful of all the antelopes. Its size is that of the deer, it has a white tail and is most graceful. The female and the young have a dark stripe on the sides, the male is brown or sand color. Their horns are shaped like a lyre.

The zebras gambol about on the plains in large numbers. The appearance of a train or a vehicle

does not put them to flight so that the traveler may satisfy his legitimate curiosity.

An interesting characteristic of the African fauna is that many entirely different species herd together.

Small mammals abound: all kinds of nice muscraignes, the spalax with its silky pelt, the porcupine which destroys the fields and gardens just as well as the elegant gazelle and the wild boar. Among the rocks are to be found hares, civet cats, wild cats and rats.

There are many birds. Several varieties of starlings, which build admirable intricate nests, a kind of small finch with a red bill and long tail, a green cuckoo and a small king fisher. There are pigeons of every description, goat-suckers, bustards, francolins and different species of grouse. The cardinal is there with its red body and black wings and a tiny bird, two inches long with dark gray and blue plumage fearlessly picks up grain beneath our windows.

With exception of a kind of warbler which sings pleasantly enough, these birds of Central Africa are all silent.

A black and white wagtail resembles our swallow; it seems to have the same habits and builds its nest under the eaves.

(To be continued)

(Subscribe to the "Messenger of Our Lady of Africa" and follow this study)

## News from Guy de Fontgalland Bureau\*

The Following Letter was sent to the Bureau

St. John's Home,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.  
March, 1935.



**GUY de FONTGALLAND**  
on the day of his First Communion

Dear Mother Mary,

We would like to take the opportunity of obtaining a relic and some pictures of the servant of God, Guy de Fontgalland.

We will promise little Guy to be obedient as he was and to love his "Heavenly Mamma" as he did, also to tell other boys about this little boy of our own time, who has obtained so many favors from God for his little friends of this earth.

We, the boys of the Boys' Infirmary, have taken your advice and thought we would ransom one of your little black babies. We have saved our pennies for the past two weeks and have finally reached our goal. We hope Guy Anthony, as we would like him baptized, will pray for us that we may be better boys.

Enclosed you will find a money order of five dollars (\$5.00) in payment for the above privilege.

We thank you very much and will pray to little Guy to ask God to bless you and your work in the Missions.

Your little friends,  
**THE BOYS OF THE INFIRMARY.**

Anthony Cafiero  
Nicholas Mandarano  
Eugene McManus  
Francis Murphy

Philip Lynch  
Francis Vaughn  
Paul Matera  
Frank Dattolo

Joseph Higgins  
Donald Pinone  
William Carlson  
Robert Doach

\* Relics, pictures and the life of the boy may be obtained at  
319 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, N. J.

Excellent! dear boys, little Guy Anthony, will help you to love "Little Jesus and His Heavenly Mamma" more and more. May many other children follow your example. — Editor.



## Our Lady of Africa Mission Guild (Concluded)

parents came during the holidays asking for the text of the prayer, which the "kiddy" had forgotten, to her great grief.

The interest we take in those children has won the Natives, they feel it deeply. Now, would you believe it, dear Ladies? Last summer, when their daughters were worn out with the heat in their closely secluded rooms and walled-in homes, some parents strongly refused to let them join **lay** holiday-parties, but entrusted them to the White Sisters. During one month, groups of seventeen girls came and went to spend a fortnight at Saint-Charles, out in the open air, under the pine trees, fitting in: sports, study, comfortable rest and wholesome meals and getting a good appetite rosy cheeks, mirth and gladness, all sure signs of renewed health. Their parents used to come and see them on Sundays, sometimes intending to take them home; but they never did, being ever so glad with the hospitality given, free of charge, to their dear little ones.

Saint Charles orphanage, well known to you, and where the little "lambs" have such an appetite, is over-crowded . . . but we never stop taking in the tiny birdies that have no nest, for now we have an "infants' nursery", not a smart one, of course, but a cozy one. Some of the bigger girls are assistants of the Sisters. The remainder of the orphanage looks like a large bee-hive, ever busy, for work is never slack; all the better, for it means bread at home! Another branch of Saint Charles' home is that for young Arab women turned out by their husbands with their babies. They are souls of good will, they intend to become Christians, and, of their own accord, rather than taking a situation in some large town, they choose to come here, just for the opportunity of learning what Christian life will soon require of them. Isn't that heroic on their part?

May I mention the infants' classes for natives? Our Sisters in Ighil-Ali, Kabylia, saw their pupils ten times more numerous since they use the Montessori method, inasmuch as it is possible with little ones who have only a very rough idea of the things most ordinary in our civilized countries. Anyhow they are a success; parents as well as children are delighted.

Some one might venture to ask: "What kind of apostleship can be of any use to those tiny children?" Why, is it not already a great thing to keep away from evil the innocent creatures? Evil . . .

they are bound to know it only too soon, the poor Arab or Kabyle children. Keeping them away from evil, means guarding them for God and allowing Him to reveal Himself to them; "Blessed are the clean of hearts, for they shall see God." And besides, the years are so short and few during we can train the mind, heart and soul of our little girls; they will soon be closely confined in their poor, lonely home — the Coran wills it — and that is the reason why we deem it fit to welcome them in early childhood, the more so on account of their being exceedingly precarious.

From all I have said, you can easily imagine, dear Ladies, that we are bound to alter our apostolic works according to the progress and civilization which now surround our Natives. I mentioned the financial means which we need to perform those alterations. God wishes us to go ahead; all our activities are for the souls, for His sake, for His glory; He must see to it that we get help from abroad. Dear Ladies, you are helping us immensely, I thank you. You can surely feel in your hearts, that you work with us to rescue the native woman and to raise higher her character and her affections in this world, thus preparing her for eternal happiness.

Offering to God the work we do for His love, I ask Him to bless each one of you dear generous co-operators, and to bless especially the home He plans for you, that you may make it truly Christian, thoroughly Catholic and immensely happy. I beseech Him that therein may thrive honor and virtue, fond mutual love in the one faith you confess, in the one hope of the same end. May He be pleased to grant you, as the pride and joy of your life, a large family. May He graciously hear the prayers and wishes of the humble missionary whom I am. Perhaps our dear Lord has better still, in store for some of you . . . Oh, I then, my dear children, praise Him for His choice and give your whole self away gladly. Then, all filled with a sweet gratitude at holding the BETTER PART, our hearts will sing together: "Quid retribuam?" What shall I render unto the Lord.

Dear Ladies and generous friends, I am yours affectionately in Christ,

MOTHER MARIE ST. JEAN  
Superior General

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Visiting the diocese of Trenton, we wish to thank the Priests, Sisters, parishoners and children for the great sympathy, spiritual and financial support so spontaneously given for the Missions.

Great appreciation is expressed to the Staff, Sisters and students of Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., where the White Sisters received the most cordial reception and encouragement for their Mission Work.

The adoption of JOHN and MARIE EUSTELLE, St. John's School, Trenton, N. J.

The adoption of PAUL — Rev. J. Sullivan Burlington, New Jersey.

The adoption of MARY — St. Peter's School, Merchantville, N. J.

The adoption of JOSEPH — St. Cecelia's School, Pensauken, N. J.

The adoption of GUY ANTHONY — The boys of the Infirmary, St. John's Home, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Miss B. Hynes, Miss K. Hynes, Brooklyn, N. Y., to support a leper in a hut.

Mrs. Caufield to keep a lamp burning in a Mission.

Miss Blum, California support the orphans.



